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DAREDEVIL®
...ELEKTRA & THE GLADIATOR...
...FIGHTING AN ARMY OF
ASSASSINS!

Stan Lee PRESENTS: DAREDEVIL, THE MAN WITHOUT FEAR!

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THE RUTHLESS BOUNTY HUNTER UNSHEATHES HER WEAPONS--MER-SAI--AND PREPARES TO GIVE CHASE.
THEN SHE RECOGNIZES HER QUARRY AS A NINJA--AND HER BLOOD RUNS COLD.
A CLOSER LOOK CONFIRMS HER SUSPICION. HE IS ONE OF THE HAND.
THE HAND...THE SAME ORDER OF MASTER ASSASSINS THAT TAUGHT HER THE MANY WAYS OF MURDER--
--BEFORE SHE BROKE TRAINING, TO OPERATE ON HER OWN.
THEY ARE PLEDGED TO HER DEATH.
BUT WHAT ARE THEY DOING HERE, IN PARIS, THOUSANDS OF MILES FROM THEIR TERRITORY?
SHE SHOULD NOT WONDER. SHE SHOULD TURN AND RUN. SHE SHOULD FLEE THIS CITY AND NEVER RETURN.
YET SHE FOLLOWS...
...AND LISTENS...
deCHANTEAUX IS DEAD.
YOU HAVE DONE WELL, GENIN.
RECEIVE NOW THE IMAGE OF OUR LATEST PREY.
HE IS AN AMERICAN.
A LAWYER...

...NAMED MATTHEW MURDOCK.
HE AND HIS CLIENT, WHOSE IMAGE AWAITS US IN NEW YORK...
BOTH MUST DIE.
MATT!
IT IS MATT.
THERE CAN BE NO DOUBT. THE HAND HAS EXPANDED ITS OPERATION TO EUROPE AND AMERICA--
--AND HAVE BEEN HIRED TO SLAY THE ONLY MAN SHE HAS EVER LOVED.
HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN, SINCE HER FATHER'S DEATH DROVE HER FROM MATT?-- TO BECOME A MERCENARY, A BOUNTY HUNTER, AN ASSASSIN?
HOW MANY YEARS, SINCE HIS OWN FATHER'S DEATH, INSPIRED MATT, TO BECOME DAREDEVIL?
THEY ARE ENEMIES NOW.
SHE HATES HIM. SHE DOES.
AND SHE WILL NOT IMPERIL HER OWN LIFE, TO SAVE HIS.
SHE WILL NOT.
AND YET, SHE FINDS HERSELF ON THE NEXT FLIGHT TO NEW YORK.

THE ASSASSINATION OF MATT MURDOCK

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VEEN and JANSON
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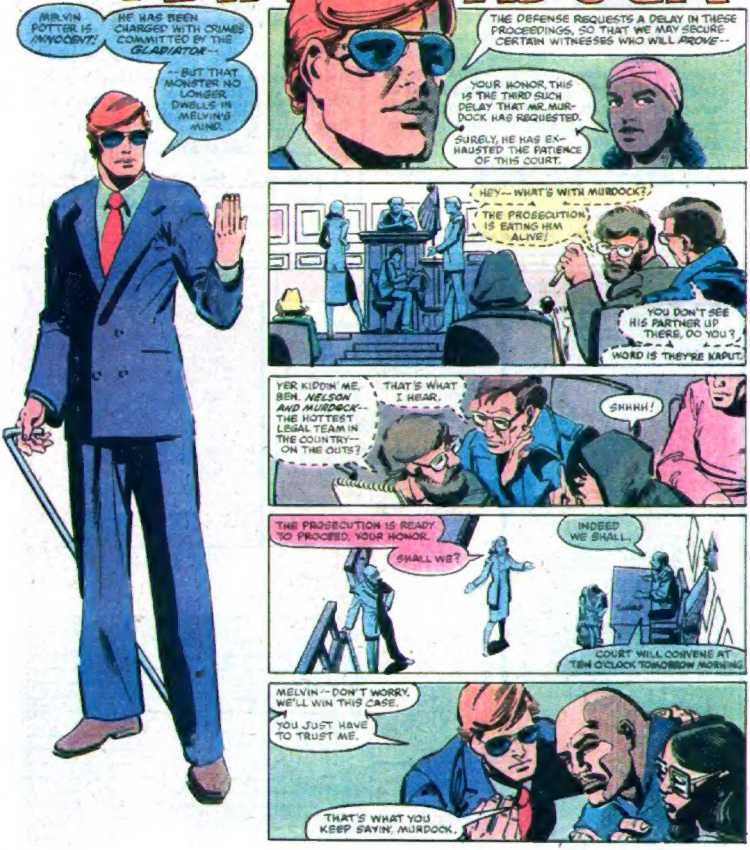
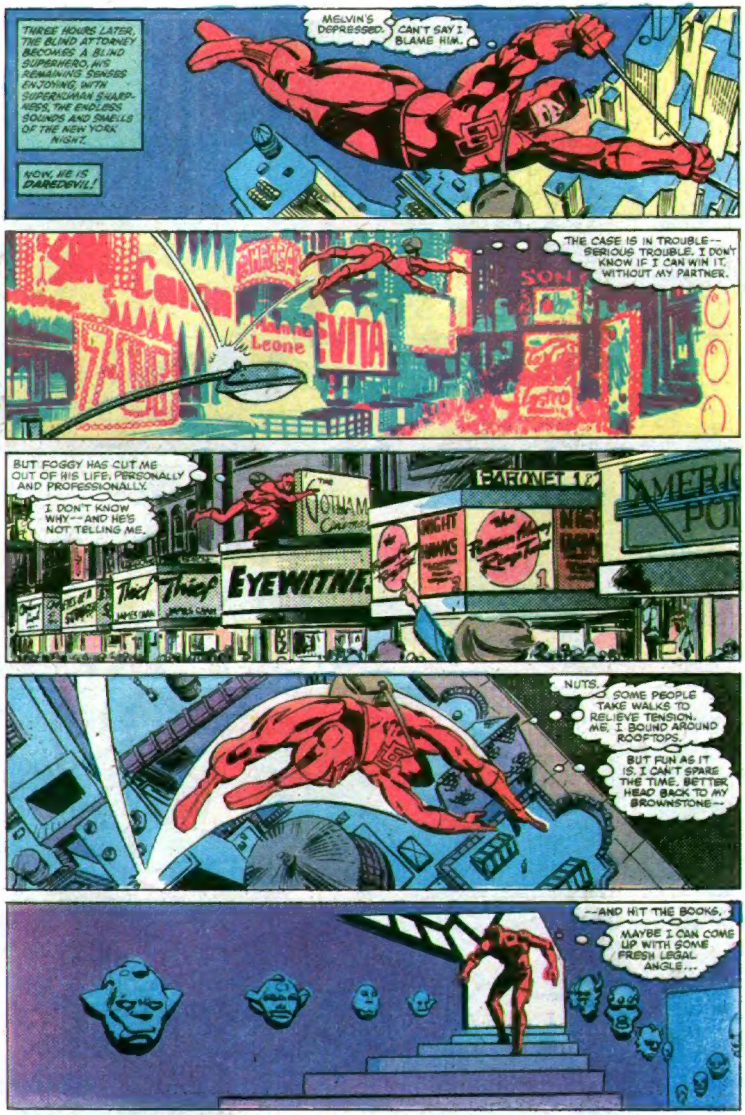
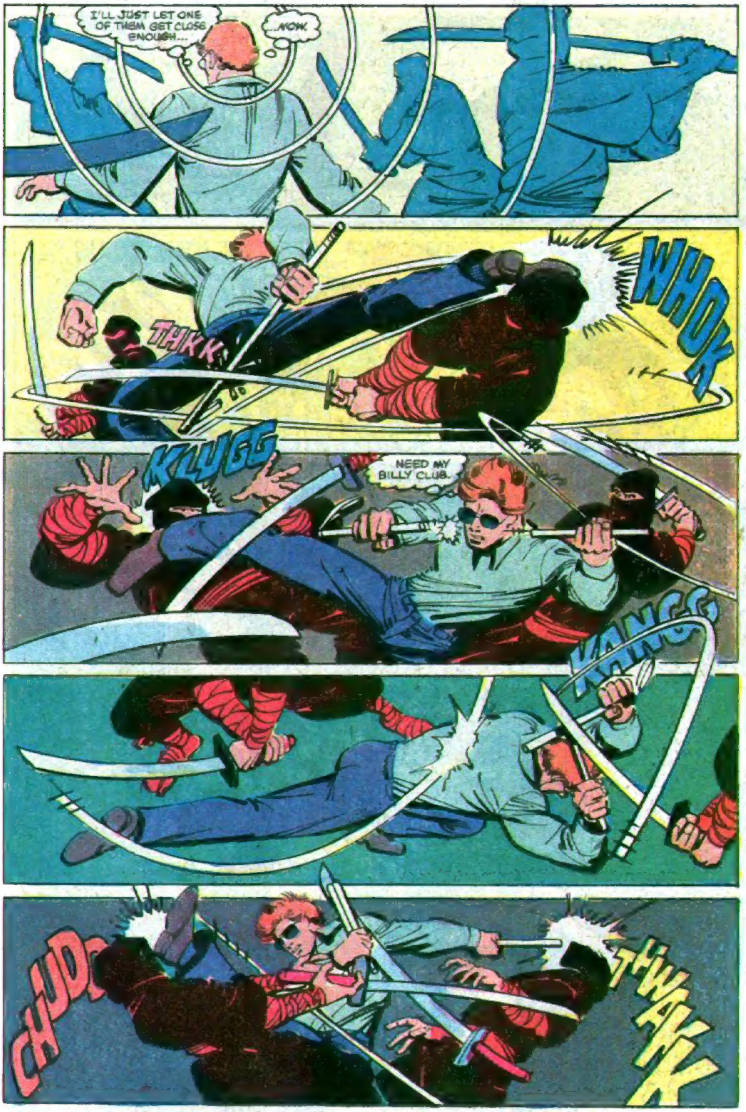


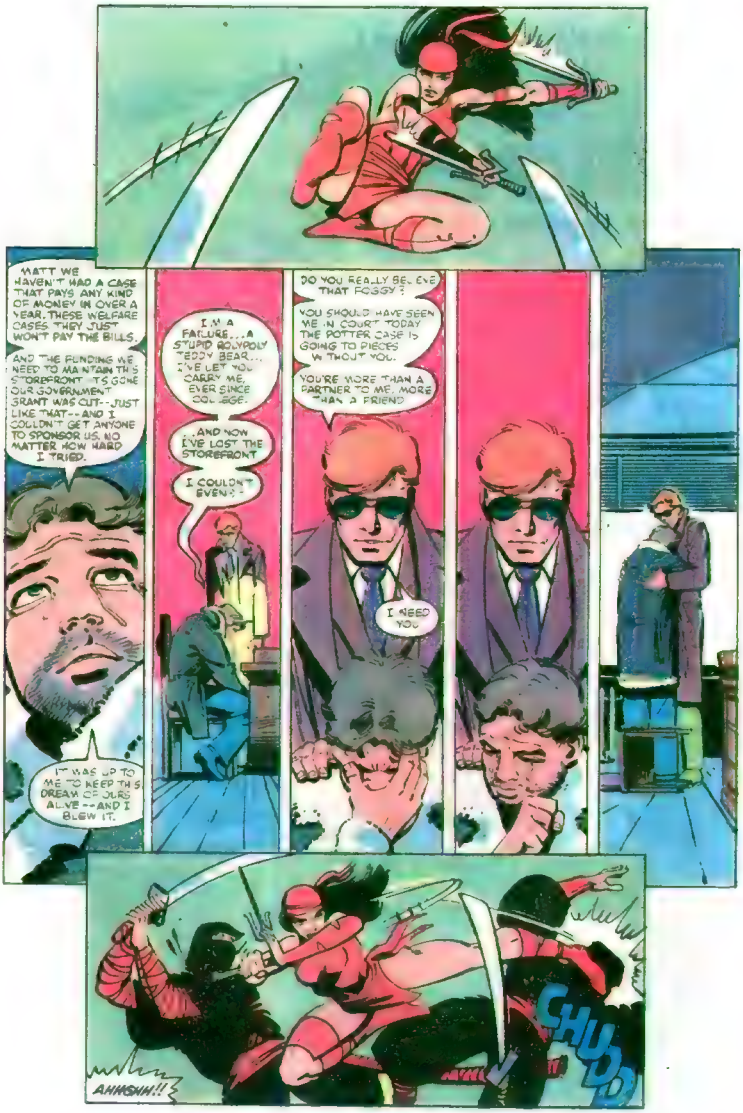

THREE HOURS LATER, THE BLIND ATTORNEY BECOMES A BLIND SUPERHERO, HIS REMAINING SENSES ENJOYING, WITH SUPERHUMAN SHARPNESS, THE ENDLESS SOUNDS AND SMELLS OF THE NEW YORK NIGHT.
NOW, HE IS DAREDEVIL!
MELVIN'S DEPRESSED.
CAN'T SAY I BLAME HIM.
THE CASE IS IN TROUBLE -- SERIOUS TROUBLE. I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN WIN IT, WITHOUT MY PARTNER.
BUT FOGGY HAS CUT ME OUT OF HIS LIFE, PERSONALLY AND PROFESSIONALLY.
I DON'T KNOW WHY -- AND HE'S NOT TELLING ME.
EYEWITNESS
NUTS.
SOME PEOPLE TAKE WALKS TO RELIEVE TENSION. ME, I BOUND AROUND ROOFTOPS.
BUT FUN AS IT IS, I CAN'T SPARE THE TIME. BETTER HEAD BACK TO MY BROWNSTONE --
-- AND HIT THE BOOKS.
MAYBE I CAN COME UP WITH SOME FRESH LEGAL ANGLE...

...BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE.
IF MELVIN IS CONVICTED, I'LL NEVER FORGIVE MYSELF, I--
WHAT THE DEVIL?
I'M NOT ALONE.
MY SUPER-SENSITIVE HEARING DETECTS FOUR DISTINCT HEARTBEATS IN THIS ROOM.
NO BREATHING. JUST THE HEARTBEATS.
AND NOW, MY RADAR IS PICKING UP SILHOUETTES TO MATCH.
MEN WITH SWORDS. HOLDING THEIR BREATH, MOVING SO QUIETLY I CAN BARELY HEAR THEM...
HE IS AWARE OF US. HOW?
IT DOES NOT MATTER.
HE IS A DEAD MAN.


I'LL JUST LET ONE OF THEM GET CLOSE ENOUGH...
AOW.
THKK
WHOK
KLUGG
NEED MY BILLY CLUB.
KANGG
CHUD
TWANK

FOUR OF US--DOWNED IN SECONDS!
IT IS LUDICROUS.
LIFE IS FULL OF SURPRISES.
WHY THE ATTACK?
YOU WILL LEARN NOTHING, MURDOCK.
WHEN ONE OF THE HAND HAS FALLEN--
--HE IS NO MORE.
HE--HE'S DISSOLVING--!
ALL FOUR OF THEM NOW--THAT SMELL....
KOFF!
KOFF!
WH... ANOTHER ONE, IN THIS ROOM!
HE MUST'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME, WITH THAT CROSSBOW.
BUT SOMEONE GOT TO HIM FIRST.
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
WHO PUT A CONTRACT OUT ON ME?
AND WHO CAME TO MY AID?
WHO?

LET HIM WONDER.
BOSS, IT AIN'T LIKE I'M QUESTIONIN' YA.
I'M JUST CURIOUS, OKAY?
YA SET YERSELF UP AS THE KINGPIN OF CRIME AGAIN INSIDE AGO. THE MOBS ARE ALL LOYAL TO YA NOW--Y'GOT NOTHIN' TA WORRY ABOUT ON THAT SCORE.
BUT LATELY, THAT NINJA OUTFIT'S BEEN SCARFING UP CONTRACTS WHAT OUGHTTA GO TO OUR BOYS--
--AND YOU AIN'T SAID WORD ONE ABOUT TAKIN' THEM ON!
AND DAREDEVIL. HE'S BEEN DRIVIN' US CRAZY, BUT YOU AIN'T--
DAREDEVIL HAS DEMONSTRATED AN INTEREST IN A CERTAIN LAWYER AND HIS CLIENT, FLINT.
THROUGH A SURROGATE, I HAVE COMMISSIONED THE NINJA TO SLAY THEM BOTH.
THIS WILL INEVITABLY DRAW DAREDEVIL INTO COMBAT AGAINST THE NINJA.
THAT IS THE SECRET TO POWER, FLINT. TO PIT YOUR ENEMIES ONE AGAINST THE OTHER--
--REMAINING, ALL THE WHILE, UNTOUCHED.


MATT WE HAVEN'T HAD A CASE THAT PAYS ANY KIND OF MONEY IN OVER A YEAR. THESE WELFARE CASES THEY JUST WON'T PAY THE BILLS.
AND THE FUNDING WE NEED TO MAINTAIN THIS STOREFRONT IS GONE OUR GOVERNMENT GRANT WAS CUT--JUST LIKE THAT--AND I COULDN'T GET ANYONE TO SPONSOR US, NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRIED.
IT WAS UP TO ME TO KEEP THIS DREAM OF OURS ALIVE--AND I BLEW IT.
I'M A FAILURE...A STUPID HOLYPOLY TEDDY BEAR... I'VE LET YOU CAREER ME, EVER SINCE COLLEGE.
...AND NOW I'VE LOST THE STOREFRONT
I COULDN'T EVEN--
DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE THAT FOGGY?
YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN ME IN COURT TODAY THE POTTER CASE IS GOING TO PIECES WITHOUT YOU.
YOU'RE MORE THAN A PARTNER TO ME. MORE THAN A FRIEND
I NEED YOU
AHMSHN!!!
CHUDD

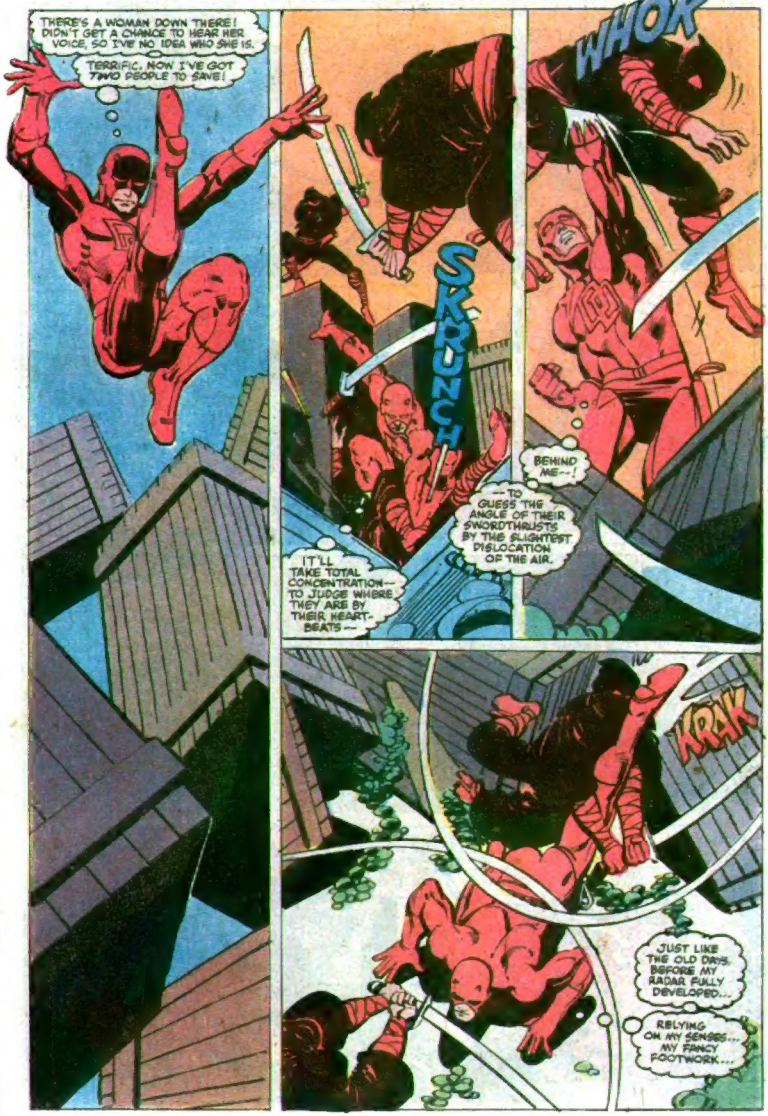
NO!
NO..
SSSSSSSS
WHOOM
MATT?
MATT..!
MATT!

FOR A TIME, HE FLOATS IN A VOID THAT IS AS DARK AND AS SILENT AS DEATH.
THEN, HE FEELS STARCHED COTTON FIBER RUSTLE LIGHTLY AGAINST HIS LEGS...
...HE SMELLS THE SHARP AMMONIA-LADEN ANTISEPTIC OF A HOSPITAL, ODDLY MIXED WITH A DELICATE PERFUME...
...HE HEARS A VOICE, SOFT AND MELODIC
YOU HAD US WORRIED, LOVER.
HE WAKES, BUT THE DARKNESS NEVER LEAVES.
UHHNN!
-EATHER...
DR. GLOSS SAYS YOU'LL BE OKAY MATT. ME, I'M NOT SO SURE.
I MEAN, IT'S A TURN-ON, HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH DAREDEVIL. IT REALLY IS.
BUT DON'T YOU EVER STOP?
TOSSED THROUGH WINDOWS... SHOT... STABBED... HIT BY BOMBS...
THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY TO SPEND YOUR EVENINGS.
IN FACT, I'VE GOT A FEW SUGGESTIONS...
JUST A SECOND. THAT RADIO...
WHAT RADIO?
...TO AVOID ANOTHER SUCH ATTACK, POLICE ARE MOVING MELVIN POTTER TO ANOTHER FACILITY.
POTTER, ALSO KNOWN AS THE GLADIATOR, IS CHARGED WITH...
MATT-- WHAT--
THE NINJA-- THEY'RE AFTER MELVIN!
BUT IF HE'S MOVED, HE'LL BE MORE VULNERABLE THAN EVER! HE--
OOF!
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU, DARLING?
YOU NEVER FALL DOWN. YOUR RADAR--
MY RADAR--
--IT'S GONE!

MEANWHILE...
THAT POTTER GUY OUGHTTA BE GRATEFUL, HE'S IN THE BACK OF THE TRUCK--
--SO WE CAN'T SMELL YOUR STINKIN CIGAR!
SHADDUP, I GOT RIGHTS.
BESIDES I GOT THE WINDOW OPEN, DON'T I?
HEY!
FFFF
KOFF KOFF
TEAR GAS! CAN'T SEE--
KOFF WATCH IT, MITCH! YER GONNA--
HER 4!!
CRASH
OWW... MY HEAD...
WHA... WHO RE YOU?
IT IS YOUR GLADIATOR ARMOR.
THE SOONER YOU ARE WEARING IT, THE GREATER YOUR CHANCES OF SURVIVING.
BUT I...
THERE IS NO TIME FOR DISCUSSION. TAKE THIS.

YOUR MODESTY IS POORLY TIMED.
PUT IT ON, OR YOU WILL DIE IN THE NEXT FIVE MINUTES.
BUT I PROMISED... I BEEN WORKING SO HARD NOT TO BE THE GLADIATOR... I MEAN..
YEAH, OKAY.
NOW WHAT DO WE DO?
WE TRY TO GET OUT OF HERE, BEFORE IT IS--
--TOO LATE.
BE CAREFUL. LET THEM COME TO YOU.
THERE'S SO MANY OF THEM...

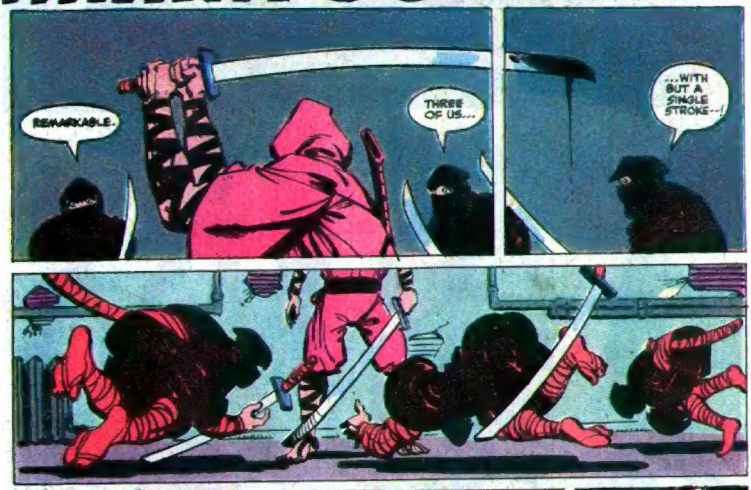
PADDED FOOTSTEPS. DOZENS OF THEM. THEY MUST BE SWARMING THE PLACE!
I SHOULDN'T HAVE COME. WITHOUT MY RADAR, I HAVEN'T MUCH OF A CHANCE AGAINST THAT MANY OF THEM.
BUT MELVIN DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHANCE, WITHOUT MY HELP!
HE'S FINALLY PURGED HIMSELF OF THE GLADIATOR—FINALLY DESTROYED HIS KILLER INSTINCTS—
—JUST WHEN HE NEEDS THEM MOST.
COVER MY BACK, POTTER. I CANNOT DEFEAT THEM ALONE.
POTTER?
KTANG
WHAT IS WRONG WITH YOU?
FIGHT BACK!
KUNG
SKRAK
KTANNG
I—I CAN'T!
CHOK
I'VE LOST IT! I—
AARRGHH!!
AS YOU SAID, WOMAN, YOU CANNOT DEFEAT US ALONE.
EH? THOSE CRATES—


THERE'S A WOMAN DOWN THERE! I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO HEAR HER VOICE, SO I'VE NO IDEA WHO SHE IS.
TERRIFIC. NOW I'VE GOT TWO PEOPLE TO SAVE!
SKRUNCH
WHOK
BEHIND ME--!
--TO GUESS THE ANGLE OF THEIR SWORDTHRUSTS BY THE SLIGHTEST DISLOCATION OF THE AIR.
IT'LL TAKE TOTAL CONCENTRATION-- TO JUDGE WHERE THEY ARE BY THEIR HEART-BEATS--
KRAK
JUST LIKE THE OLD DAYS. BEFORE MY RADAR FULLY DEVELOPED...
RELYING ON MY SENSES... MY FANCY FOOTWORK...

...AND AN ECONOMY SIZED PORTION OF LUCK!
SK
RAK
WHAK
I'M DOING IT! I'M HOLDING MY OWN!
BEHIND ME--- A HEARTBEAT!
NO, IT'S GONE...MUST'VE IMAGINED IT...
THEY'RE LEAVING!
I DID IT. WITHOUT MY RADAR. ALONE...
MELVIN...
IT'S OKAY... JUST CUT UP SOME...ARMOR BLOCKED MOST OF IT.
S'FUNNY, DARE-DEVIL... I'VE TRIED TO KILL YOU, LOTSA TIMES, BUT NOW... NOW, I COULDN'T EVEN FIGHT!
I'D BE COLD MEAT IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU... AND THAT LADY...
LADY?
YEAH... THE ONE WITH THE SAI. DIDN'T YOU SEE HER?
NO.
NO. IT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN HER.

LATER...
IT WAS SHE.
THIS CONTRACT HAS BROUGHT US TO BATTLE WITH ELEKTRA.
SHE, AND THE ONE CALLED DAREDEVIL, DISPATCHED OUR FORCE. ONLY WE THREE SURVIVED.
SURVIVED. YES.
BUT YOU FAILED.
YOU SHOULD HAVE DIED, WITH YOUR BROTHERS.
BUT-- BUT JONIN, WE THOUGHT-- IF WE TOLD YOU OF ELEKTRA...
YOU ARE NOT PAID TO THINK. ONLY TO KILL--
--OR BE KILLED.
NOT-- NOT HIM!
WE-- WE ARE BUT THREE --AND HE--
SILENCE, BROTHERS.
WE MUST DEFEND OURSELVES.
DID YOU SAY, "DEFEND YOURSELVES?"
HA HA HA HA HA HA HA HA

WHHHSSHKK



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